

# Memorandum



**Date:** October 2, 2007

**To:** Honorable Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**From:** George M. Burgess  
County Manager

Agenda Item No. 12B7

**Subject:** Second Round of CDBG 2005 Disaster Recovery Funding

The purpose of this report is to inform the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) on the 2005 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Disaster Recovery Program, Hurricane Wilma Supplemental Appropriation, the application requirements, and the County's role in the administration of the program. No matching funds are required.

## **Background**

In August 2006, the County submitted an application on behalf of eight governmental entities for \$16.1 million to the Florida Department of Community Affairs (DCA) in response to disaster recovery funds from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (US HUD) for the 2005 Disaster Recovery Initiative, Florida Small Cities CDBG Program. In preparing for the submission, a local workshop was held to establish a local process for determining our community's disaster recovery priorities and obtain input from interested municipalities. Following the local workshop, a Technical Review Committee and an Independent Prioritization Process for the CDBG Disaster Recovery Initiative projects were established based on federal and state program requirements. All local municipalities, non-profit organizations and County departments were invited to submit eligible projects for consideration and inclusion in the final grant application for CDBG Disaster Recovery Initiative funding. A total of nine projects were recommended for inclusion in the application. These projects are currently in progress with the Office of Community and Economic Development (OCED) serving as the administrative entity.

Miami-Dade County has now been advised that US HUD and the State of Florida Department of Community Affairs (DCA) have made available a second round of CDBG disaster related funds of over \$22 million to the Miami-Dade County community (including approximately \$675,000 to be retained by the County for administrative expenses) for assistance with long-term recovery, relief and mitigation efforts as a result of Hurricane Wilma. This Hurricane Wilma Supplemental Appropriation is designated to assist local governments with satisfying their disaster recovery needs in the areas of housing (replacement, rehabilitation/repair and hardening and mitigation activities) and infrastructure repair/improvement.

County departments and local municipalities are qualified to apply for funding assistance under this CDBG funding process. The DCA will only accept one comprehensive application from the Miami-Dade County community and the County has been identified as the conduit agency by the State of Florida DCA to submit the consolidated application for the Miami-Dade County community by the October 1, 2007 deadline.

On August 31, 2007, the County hosted a meeting with local municipalities and County departments to discuss the objectives of the program, the application requirements and process as delineated by the Substantial Amendment to DCA's Disaster Recovery Program Action Plan, Supplemental Appropriation addressing Hurricane Wilma. All local municipalities and County departments have been invited to submit eligible projects for possible inclusion in the County's application to the DCA.

### **Plan Requirements**

The plan requires funds to be used to specifically address the needs of low to moderate income households limited to 80 percent of area median income (AMI) and below. All damaged structures receiving assistance are required to be repaired, rehabilitated, or replaced and hardened to further protect from future storms. Award recipients cannot use this disaster recovery funding for a project or activity that was underway prior to the Presidential disaster declaration of October 24, 2005 (Hurricane Wilma). Persons receiving assistance must also certify that no duplication of funding has been secured to undertake the mitigation activities specific to their home. The disaster funding can be used to harden homes not damaged; however, the structure needs to be in the declared disaster area.

Eligible activities for disaster recovery funding are limited to the following:

- Single family/Multifamily Housing Repair, Rehabilitation, or Replacement and Hardening
- Infrastructure repair/improvement (damaged as a result of Hurricane Wilma)

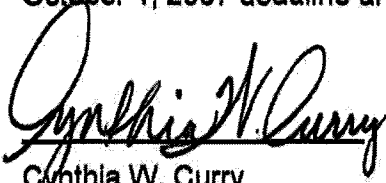
To facilitate the collection and compilation of the required project information for inclusion in the final comprehensive application, the decision was made to adhere to the DCA's application definitions, guidelines, forms and application instructions to the maximum extent possible. The Miami-Dade County 2005 CDBG Disaster Recovery Program Hurricane Wilma Supplemental Appropriation Project Submission Instructions and Prioritization Process document outlines the DCA's application requirements and will be required for all project submissions to the County. Project submission requirements include: 1) Readiness to Proceed Checklist; Project Information and Certification Forms; 2) Narrative of Project; Project Description and Budget by Service Area – Attachment A; 3) Detailed Map; and 4) CDBG Policies (if applicable) and Housing Assistance Plan (if applicable). Multiple projects may be proposed; however, the required information must be presented in priority order beginning with the first or highest priority and ending with the last or lowest. The deadline for project submissions from local municipalities and County departments is Thursday, September 13, 2007 by 2:00 pm to the Office of Strategic Business Management (OSBM).

The process that will be utilized to develop the County's comprehensive application will emulate the process implemented previously for the 2005 Disaster Recovery Initiative. OSBM will lead our application efforts and will continue to work closely with OCED and the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs. A Technical Review Committee and an independent objective Prioritization Process have been developed based on federal and state program requirements. A Technical Review Committee will review all project submission packages for compliance with CDBG, Disaster Recovery Program Supplemental Appropriation addressing Hurricane Wilma, and project submission package requirements. The Committee will be comprised of individuals with knowledge of CDBG requirements representing entitlement communities and participants in the CDBG small cities program, such as: 1) Miami-Dade County, 2) Miami, 3) Hialeah, 4) Miami Beach, 5) North Miami, 6) Miami Gardens, 7) Homestead, 8) and Florida City.

The Prioritization Committee will review, rate, and rank all project submissions deemed eligible by the Technical Review Committee and will also recommend funding allocations. Points are assigned to each criterion. In making recommended allocations, the Prioritization Committee may also consider the ratio of housing versus infrastructure projects to meet the State's allocation for each category. The Committee will also prioritize funding for areas that received the most damage. A Prioritization Committee will be comprised of representatives of local organizations, such as: Dade Community Foundation, Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, United Way, Miami-Dade County (non-voting), Miami-Dade League of Cities (non-voting)

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Priority recommendations and allocations will be announced on September 19, 2007. A ten-day public comment period will begin on September 20, 2007. The OCED will administer the grant program. Due to time constraints, it is my intention to submit the application on behalf of the County prior to the October 1, 2007 deadline and bring the item to the Board for ratification.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Cynthia W. Curry". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Cynthia W. Curry  
Senior Advisor to the County Manager